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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

Chaplain Paul L. Sherouse, Wing Chaplain, Andrews Air Force Base, Air Force District of Washington, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, our gracious heavenly Father, we pause before the business of our Nation to remember that You have granted us a unique role at this moment in history.

Blessed with government committed to preserving individual freedoms; an abundance of natural resources that inspire our industry; and educational opportunities that have resulted in scientific and technological achievements, we are the most powerful and wealthiest nation on Earth. Grant us wisdom to use these gifts in service to our country and our world.

We give You special thanks for the Library of Congress, established 208 years ago today. May its example of research and scholarship continue to be an example for all. Send Your holy angels to watch over our military. Inspire their courage, protect them from danger, grant success to their missions and keep their families safe and secure in their absence; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Savior. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill and agreed to a concurrent resolution of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2324. An act to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) to enhance the Offices of the Inspectors General, to create a Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and for other purposes.

S. Con. Res. 77. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month 2008.

WELCOMING CHAPLAIN PAUL L. SHEROUSE

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to welcome Lieutenant Colonel Paul L. Sherouse this morning as he opened the United States House of Representatives with a prayer as our guest chaplain. Lieutenant Colonel Sherouse is a decorated member of the United States Air Force and has been honored with the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Southwest Asia Service Medal, and the Air Force Achievement Medal.

He is the Wing Chaplain at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland and is endorsed by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Previously, Lieutenant Colonel Sherouse was on assignment in Baghdad, Iraq, in July 2003. As he prepares for his latest deployment to Kuwait on May 3, 2008, we wish him the best and

are honored to have him here with us this morning. On behalf of my constituents in San Antonio and the U.S. House of Representatives, we thank him and his family, including his wife, Pamela, and their children, Arynne and Oliver, for his honorable service to our country.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE AUTHORIZATION ACT

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, every day and every night firefighters, police officers, and other first responders keep our communities safe and are ready to respond to emergencies as they arise.

Among all of the dedicated first responders in our cities and towns, several local agencies have taken their commitment a step further by sponsoring Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces. There are 28 Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces around the country, including one in my own district, sponsored by the Orange County Fire Authority.

These task forces stand ready to respond to natural disasters like earthquakes and hurricanes, and to terrorist attacks. For example, FEMA deployed 25 of the 28 on 9/11, and 28 of the 28 task forces to Hurricane Katrina.

Despite the fact that these task forces are deployed by FEMA, they

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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